

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A method for producing pulp flakes, comprising:
introducing dewatered pulp to a pulp flaker, wherein said flaker comprises a housing having rotating first and second rotors therein, wherein said rotors are rotating in opposite directions, each of said rotors comprising a plurality of fingers circumferentially and longitudinally arranged on said rotors, wherein as the rotors rotate, said fingers of one rotor pass interspaced between the fingers of the second rotor in the region between rotors.
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the distance between the ends of said fingers to the housing, the distance from the ends of said fingers to the opposing rotor, and the distance between the fingers of one rotor as they pass between the fingers of the second rotor, said three distances being approximately the same.
3. The method of Claim 2, wherein said distances are each approximately one-eighth of an inch or less.
4. The method of Claim 1, wherein one rotor is configured to rotate at a speed of about 500 rpm to about 3600 rpm.
5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the rotors are configured to operate at a speed differential.
6. The method of Claim 1, wherein one rotor is configured to rotate at about one-tenth to about nine-tenths the speed of the second rotor.
7. The method of Claim 1, wherein one rotor is configured to rotate at approximately one-third the speed of the second rotor.
8. (Canceled) A pulp flaker, comprising:
a housing configured with an inlet and an outlet;
a first and second rotor within said housing, said rotors parallel to one another;

a plurality of fingers on each of said rotors, said fingers circumferentially and longitudinally arranged on said rotors, wherein as the rotors rotate, the fingers of one rotor pass interspaced between the fingers of the second rotor in the region between rotors.

9. (Canceled) The pulp Maker of Claim 8, wherein the distance between the ends of said fingers and the housing, the distance from the ends of said fingers to the opposing rotor, the distance between the fingers of one rotor as they pass between the fingers of the second rotor, said three distances being approximately the same.

10. (Canceled) The pulp flaker of Claim 9, wherein said distances are each approximately one-eighth of an inch or less.

11. (Canceled) The pulp flaker of Claim 8, wherein one rotor is configured to rotate at a speed of about 500 rpm to about 3600 rpm.

12. (Canceled) The pulp flaker of Claim 8, wherein the rotors are configured to operate at a speed differential.

13. (Canceled) The pulp flaker of Claim 12, wherein one rotor is configured to rotate at about one-tenth to about nine-tenths the speed of the second rotor.

14. (Canceled) The pulp flaker of Claim 8, wherein one rotor is configured to rotate at approximately one-third the speed of the second rotor.

15. (Canceled) The pulp flaker of Claim 8, wherein each finger comprises two leading edges.

16. (Canceled) The pulp flaker of Claim 8, wherein each finger comprises a leading edge and a trailing edge, wherein the trailing edge has a greater clearance to the housing as compared with the leading edge.